REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 12-22 are currently pending.

The Office Action rejected claims 12-19, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by GB 1,494,543 ("Kao Soap"), and claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Kao Soap in view of U.S. patent application publication no. 2002/0127168 ("Jakob"). In view of the following comments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

The claimed invention relates to coated sodium percarbonate particles comprising a sodium percarbonate core surrounded by at least one coating layer comprising at least one inorganic coating material. As noted at page 1, lines 3-11 of the present application, Kao Soap neither teaches nor suggests such coated sodium percarbonate particles. Applicants respectfully submit that for at least this reason the pending rejections are improper and should be withdrawn.

More specifically, Kao Soap does not expressly teach or suggest sodium percarbonate particles coated with inorganic materials. To compensate for this fatal deficiency, the Office Action asserted that Kao Soap inherently discloses such coated particles, asserting that the "activating agents" and "additives" inherently form the claimed coating. However, this is not the case.

Kao Soap uses its "activating agents" and "additives" to form bleaching compositions --- Kao Soap does not add its "activating agents" and "additives" to the sodium percarbonate to affect the structure/composition of the sodium percarbonate by forming a coating. For example, in Kao Soap's examples 2 and 3, bleaching compositions (of Kao Soap's invention) are prepared by combining previously-heated sodium percarbonate with other ingredients. (See, for example, page 3, lines 54-59). Comparative compositions are prepared in the same manner, combining unheated sodium percarbonate with other ingredients. (Id.). Nothing in these preparation procedures (that is, simply combining the materials) would result in the formation of a coating. Rather, the procedures merely form a composition containing the combined ingredients. Clearly, following Kao Soap does not inherently, each and every time, result in the formation of coated sodium percarbonate particles.

Moreover, because Kao Soap does not expressly disclose coated sodium percarbonate particles, it cannot suggest preparation of such coated particles, let alone any of the benefits associated with such particles such as improved stability, dissolution rate and/or fizziness.

Jakob, which was merely cited for its disclosure relating to fluid bed reactors, cannot compensate for Kao Soap's fatal deficiencies.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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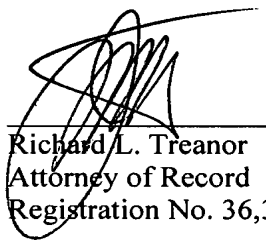

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